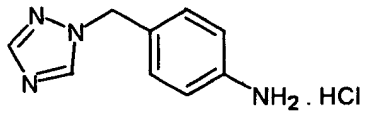
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

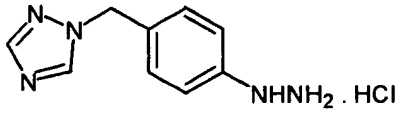
1. (Currently Amended) Process for preparing a pharmaceutically active compound, rizatriptan, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, ~~characterised in that it~~ which comprises the following steps:

a) Preparation of the diazonium salt of the aniline hydrochloride of formula (II)



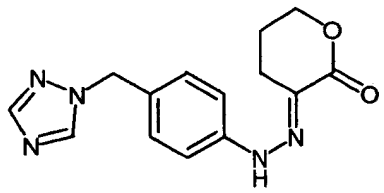
(II)

followed by reduction and acidification to give the hydrazine of formula (III):



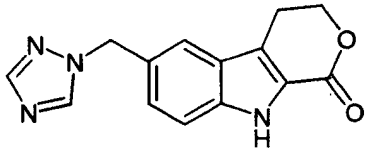
(III)

b) *In situ* reaction of the hydrazine hydrochloride of formula (III) with α-keto-δ-valerolactone, to give the hydrazone of formula (IV):



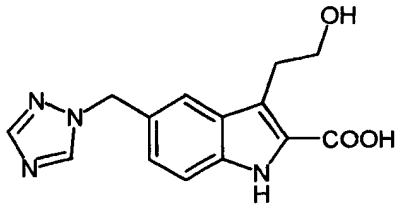
(IV)

c) Fischer indole reaction of the hydrazone of formula (IV), to give the pyranoindolone of formula (V):



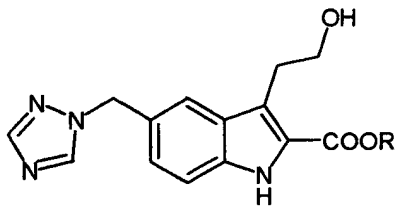
(V)

followed optionally by hydrolysis to give the product of formula (VI):



(VI)

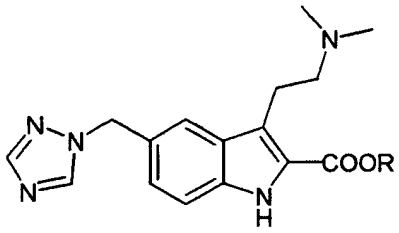
d) Transesterification of the compound of formula (V) or esterification of its hydrolysis product of formula (VI), to give a compound of formula (VII):



(VII)

where R represents a straight or branched C1-C4 alkyl chain;

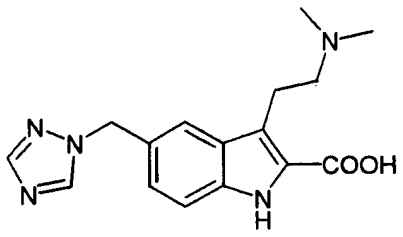
e) conversion of the hydroxyl group of the compound of formula (VII) into dimethylamino, to give the indolecarboxylate of formula (VIII):



(VIII)

where R has the same meaning as defined above;

f) Saponification of the 2-carboalkoxy group of the compound of formula (VIII), to give the indolecarboxylic acid of formula (IX):



(IX)

g) Decarboxylation of the indolecarboxylic acid of formula (IX), to give rizatriptan, and

eventually, the preparation of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that in said~~ wherein in step c) the indolisation is carried out in a solution of dry hydrogen chloride in a straight or branch C1-C4 alcohol chain.

3. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein steps a), b) and c) are carried out as a one pot reaction.

4. (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~Claims 1 and 3~~ Claim 1, ~~characterised in that said~~ wherein step c) is carried out in aqueous acid medium and is followed by a hydrolysis reaction to give the product of formula (VI).

5. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that said~~ wherein step e) is carried out in two steps:

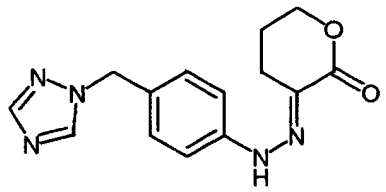
e-i) substitution of the hydroxyl group of the compound of formula (VII) by a leaving group X; and

e-ii) subsequent substitution reaction of the leaving group X with dimethylamine to give the compound of formula (VIII).

6. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 5, ~~characterised in that said~~ wherein the leaving group X is selected from a halogen atom, a mesylate group or a tosylate group.

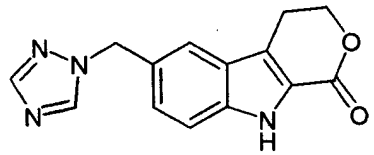
7. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that said~~ wherein step d) is carried out in an alcoholic solution and in the presence of an acid.

8. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 1, wherein a Synthesis intermediate of formula (IV):



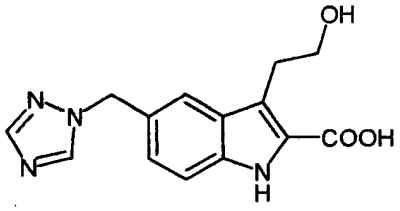
(IV)

9. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 1, wherein a Synthesis intermediate of formula (V):



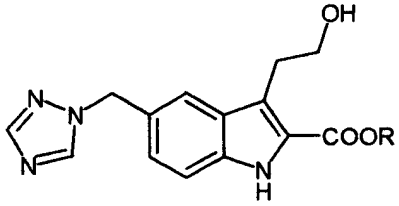
(V)

10. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 1, wherein a Synthesis intermediate of formula (VI):



(VI)

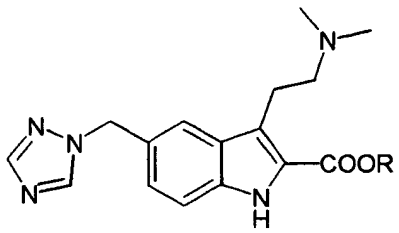
11. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 1, wherein a Synthesis intermediate of formula (VII):



(VII)

where R represents a straight or branched C1-C4 alkyl chain.

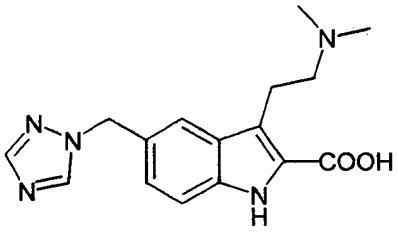
12. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 1, wherein a Synthesis intermediate of formula (VIII):



(VIII)

where R represents a straight or branched C1-C4 alkyl chain.

13. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 1, wherein a Synthesis intermediate of formula (IX):



(IX)